

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 01013 020619Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /083 W

-----020621Z 090173 /21

P 291310Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5938

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 1013

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: SOWETO RETURNS TO NORMAL

1. SOWETO APPEARS CALM WITH LIFE RETURNING TO NORMAL IM THE AFTERMATH OF WHAT MANY FEEL WAS A 'NEAR MISS'. MOST OBSERVERS CREDIT POLICE CHIEF VISSER'S 'LOW KEY' APPROACH FOR THE FACT THAT TENSIONS APPEAR TO HAVE EVAPORATED QUICKLY, ALTHOUGH IN LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT VIOLENCE AT UBC CENTER, VISSER HIMSELF HAS WARNED HE WAS "RETHINKING HIS APPROACH".

VISSER SAID, "WE GAVE THEM A CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE PEACEFULLY AND THEY SHOWED THEY COULD NOT CONTROL IT." HE ADDED, "I FEEL THE STUDENTS LET US DOWN AND WERE IRRESPONSIBLE". TO UNDERSCORE HIS APPARENT BITTERNESS, VISSER STATED HE WOULD REVIEW THE QUESTION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 01013 020619Z

OF WHETHER TO ALLOW FUTURE MEETINGS OR MARCHES IN THE TOWNSHIP AND ALSO "GIVE THE ASSURANCE THAT WE (THE POLICE) WILL NOT ACT IN THE SAME MANNER (LOW KEY) AS WE DID ON WEDNESDAY".

2. COMMENT. IT SEEMS TO BE CLEAR THAT THE RELATIVE ABSENCE OF BRUTALITY AS WELL AS THE RESTRAINT SHOWN BY THE POLICE

ARE MAJOR FACTORS IN LIFE RETURNING TO NORMAL SO QUICKLY.
VISSER'S ACTIONS HAVE LARGELY BEEN APPLAUDED BY BOTH BLACK
AND WHITE COMMUNITIES SO IT IS HOPED HIS APPARENT REJECTION
OF THE 'SOFT' APPROACH WILL PASS. SEVERAL BLACKS, IN FOLLOW-UP
COMMENT TO REPORTIG OFFICER, AGREE THAT ACTION AT THE JAULANI
UBC CENTER WAS "REGRETABLE" BUT PERPETRATED BY ONLY A FEW WHO WERE
EGGED ON BY TROUBLEMAKERS. THE GENERAL SENTIMENT WAS THE MARCH,
AS ORGANIZED BY THE SSRC, WAS A SIGNIFICANT PROTEST AND THERE
WAS NO CALL FOR VIOLENCE IN LIGHT OF THE WILLINGNESS OF THE POLICE
TO ALLOW THE MARCH TO PROCEED PEACEFULLY.
KIRBY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN01013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770152-1091
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977045/aaaaadzl.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40e0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2785615
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOWETO RETURNS TO NORMAL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40e0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009